

After 3 years of serving in this vital role, during which he became a very popular fixture on Capitol Hill, Lieutenant Kokot will return to sea duty in USS *Tripoli* (LPH 10), the Navy's newest America class amphibious assault ship homeported in San Diego, CA. *Tripoli* was built in Pascagoula, MS, and is the third ship to bear the name of the first U.S. battle fought on foreign soil. This Chamber will keenly feel Lieutenant Kokot's absence. A substantial debt is owed to Jon's parents, Ronald and Pamela Kokot, for the parenting and love that produced this outstanding young leader. Regrettably, Jon's mother passed away when he was 22, but I know that she watches over her son with the same pride that is felt by many Members of Congress. I am grateful for LT Jonathan Kokot's service and his work with my office and the Senate, and I salute him. May he always have "fair winds and following seas."

#### ADDITIONAL STATEMENTS

##### REMEMBERING KAREN FERGUSON

• Mr. BROWN. Mr. President, I ask my colleagues to join me in honoring the life of a lifelong champion for American workers across the country, the founder and longtime president of the Pension Rights Center, Karen Ferguson.

Karen came to Washington, DC, in the early 1970s to work with Ralph Nader as a public interest lawyer, fighting for consumers and workers against unchecked corporate power. As one of "Nader's Raiders," she found her calling. Recognizing the void of public advocacy for retirees and pensioners, Karen founded the Pension Rights Center in 1976. This marked the beginning of a crusade that lasted more than four decades, on behalf of pensioners who so often did not have much of a voice in their own government. Over the next 45 years, Karen personally assisted thousands of workers who were denied the retirement benefits they earned, and she advocated for retirement security for millions more.

As one of our country's leading experts on pension law and a passionate advocate for workers and their families, Karen was a source of strength and guidance to her allies in Congress for decades. She was instrumental to the passage of a number of reforms that improved the cause of retirement security, including the Retirement Equity Act of 1984, a critical law that provided benefits to millions of widows and divorced women.

Most recently, Karen was a leader in the fight to protect and restore multi-employer pension benefits for millions of union members across the country, including 100,000 Ohioans. She worked directly with my office to help draft the Butch Lewis Act and fought for years alongside Mr. Lewis, his widow and leader in her own right, Rita

Lewis, and other workers, families, and small businesses, for its passage. Because of their advocacy, we were finally able to pass the Butch Lewis Emergency Pension Plan Relief Act into law as part of the American Rescue Plan in 2021. We were successful in no small part due to the unwavering support she provided. Now, more than a million Americans who have worked hard all their lives and gave up raises at the bargaining table in order to put that money toward retirement are no longer at risk of losing the benefits they earned. And many American businesses—often small, family-owned businesses—will be able to continue to support their workers and grow and create more good, union jobs.

Karen Ferguson will be remembered for a lifetime of service on behalf of workers and their families, and the compassion and skill she brought to our efforts. Her legacy will continue through the millions of past, current, and future workers and their families who will have a more secure retirement thanks to her work.●

##### TRIBUTE TO TONY COLTER

• Mr. DAINES. Mr. President, today I have the distinct honor of recognizing Tony Colter of Powell County as Montanan of the Month for his many years of leadership in resolving forestry and timber issues and his dedication to making Montana a better place to live for all Montanans.

Tony is a founding member of the Beaverhead-Deerlodge Working Group, which was formed in 2011. The group brings Montanans with diverse interests together to collaborate with Forest Service staff and community members to promote collaboration and transparency when solving forest-level issues in the Beaverhead-Deerlodge National Forest.

Tony's leadership and passion for the Working Group has impacted the lives of many of his fellow Montanans. He has been instrumental in helping develop science-based restoration strategies, forging diverse partnerships, and improving Forest Service projects through collaborative approaches and recommendations.

Fellow members of the Working Group say that Tony cares deeply about the group's vision for the Forest, and his passion and charisma made him a valuable leader and representative for the Working Group. They say that learning from and working alongside Tony was an honor.

Tony also worked for many years at Sun Mountain Lumber in Deer Lodge. His former coworkers, friends, and colleagues all agree that his efforts have made a lasting impact. Bryan Lorengo with the Montana Logging Association said, "The one thing that sticks out about Tony is his calm demeanor and willingness to listen first while respecting people's opinions and views even though they might be opposite of his own."●

It is my honor to recognize Tony for his leadership and commitment to bettering the Forest and serving his community. Through his passion for advancing the Working Group's mission for and dedication to solving forest-related issues, I have no doubt that Tony's hard work has made the great State of Montana a better place to live.

Congratulations on your retirement, Tony. You make Montana proud.●

##### REMEMBERING VICE ADMIRAL PAUL FOSTER

• Mr. MARSHALL. Mr. President, today I wish to recognize VADM Paul Frederick Foster, USN, of Wichita, KS, on the 50th anniversary of his passing. Foster was the first Naval Officer to receive the Congressional Medal of Honor. Moreover, he earned the Navy Cross, the Distinguished Service Award, and Navy Merit Commendation. VADM Paul Frederick Foster was a true American hero.

Paul Foster was in Wichita, KS, in 1889. He was the son of a traveling minister and thus grew up in Kansas, Utah, Oklahoma, and finally Idaho. There, he would attend the University of Idaho for 1 year before earning an appointment to the U.S. Naval Academy in Annapolis, MD, from Senator Fred Dubois of Idaho in 1907. In June 1911, Foster exited the Naval Academy as a passed midshipman with a bachelor of science. He was commissioned as ensign in July 1911. After graduation he would be attached to the USS *Washington*, but by December was quickly transferred to the USS *Utah*, a battleship in the Atlantic Fleet.

In the beginning of 1914, the United States chose to intercede in the Mexican Revolution. While on its way to Mexico, the USS *Utah* was instructed to intercept a German ship carrying arms intended for the Mexican dictator Victoriano Huerta. The German ship arrived in Veracruz before the *Utah*, which resulted in the American occupation of the city. During the fighting on April 21 and 22, Foster led his company ashore. For distinguished conduct in battle, he was awarded the Medal of Honor.

Paul Frederick Foster would go on to serve as commanding officer of multiple submarines during World War I. During his service a submariner, he was promoted to the rank of lieutenant commander and was decorated with the Navy Distinguished Service Medal for the sinking enemy submarine. At the outset of U.S. involvement in World War II, Foster was called for Active Duty at the rank of commander. He was tasked with naval inspections. The highest rank he would achieve was vice admiral at the time of his second retirement from the Navy. After the war, Paul Frederick Foster was appointed to the Atomic Energy Commission in Vienna, Austria, by President Eisenhower.

It is my honor to commemorate VADM Paul Frederick Foster for his

heroic military service. Today, I send my best wishes to his son, Rear Admiral Paul L. Foster SC, USN-Ret.●

#### TRIBUTE TO AYOKA LEE

● Mr. MARSHALL. Mr. President, I rise today to recognize a truly incredible, and historic performance on the basketball court from K-State's own, Ayoka Lee.

Ayoka is the starting center for the Kansas State Women's Basketball Team and recently set the NCAA all-time record on January 23 in Bramlage Coliseum for most points in a single game, scoring an astounding 61 points against the 14th-ranked Oklahoma Sooners. To put into perspective just how extraordinary this is, the entire Oklahoma roster only scored 65 points against the Wildcats in that game. There is not much more I enjoy than seeing my alma mater win, so this record performance truly brings immense pride to myself and every other K-State alumni.

It is also no surprise that Ayoka was able to achieve this, given her resume. She came to Manhattan as a top 50 national recruit out of high school, then went on to be Big 12 freshman of the year, and First Team All Big-12 her freshman and sophomore year. Not to mention, she has also been on the Big 12 Commissioner's Honor Roll four times. Now in her junior year, Ayoka will surely be First-Team All Big-12 again and is even in the Wooden Award Top-25 Watch List. If this 61-point performance doesn't earn her the Wooden award, it has at least won her a spot in every K-Stater's heart, and we are all thrilled to hear about her plans to come back and play in her final year of NCAA eligibility as she completes her master's degree in the Little Apple.

I ask my colleagues now to join me in recognizing this outstanding achievement by Ayoka Lee. She has made the K-State community proud, and we are all rooting for her to succeed in her career and can't wait to see her and the team bring home a national championship. "Go Cats!"●

#### MESSAGES FROM THE PRESIDENT

Messages from the President of the United States were communicated to the Senate by Ms. Ridgway, one of his secretaries.

#### EXECUTIVE MESSAGES REFERRED

In executive session the Presiding Officer laid before the Senate messages from the President of the United States submitting sundry nominations and a withdrawal which were referred to the appropriate committees.

(The messages received today are printed at the end of the Senate proceedings.)

#### MESSAGE FROM THE HOUSE RECEIVED DURING ADJOURNMENT

##### ENROLLED BILL SIGNED

Under the authority of the order of the Senate of January 3, 2021, the Secretary of the Senate, on January 25, 2022, during the adjournment of the Senate, received a message from the House of Representatives announcing that the Speaker had signed the following enrolled bill:

S. 1404. An act to award a Congressional Gold Medal to the 23d Headquarters Special Troops and the 3133d Signal Service Company, popularly known as the "Ghost Army", in recognition of their unique and highly distinguished service in conducting deception operations in Europe during World War II.

The enrolled bill was subsequently signed by the President pro tempore (Mr. LEAHY).

#### ENROLLED BILL PRESENTED

The Secretary of the Senate reported that on today, January 31, 2022, she had presented to the President of the United States the following enrolled bill:

S. 1404. An act to award a Congressional Gold Medal to the 23d Headquarters Special Troops and the 3133d Signal Service Company, popularly known as the "Ghost Army", in recognition of their unique and highly distinguished service in conducting deception operations in Europe during World War II.

#### REPORTS OF COMMITTEES

The following reports of committees were submitted:

By Mr. MANCHIN, from the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources, without amendment:

S. 180. A bill to withdraw certain Bureau of Land Management land from mineral development (Rept. No. 117-60).

S. 1317. A bill to modify the boundary of the Sunset Crater Volcano National Monument in the State of Arizona, and for other purposes (Rept. No. 117-61).

#### INTRODUCTION OF BILLS AND JOINT RESOLUTIONS

The following bills and joint resolutions were introduced, read the first and second times by unanimous consent, and referred as indicated:

By Ms. BALDWIN (for herself and Mr. CASSIDY):

S. 3534. A bill to strengthen and expand activities related to genomic sequencing of pathogens, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

By Mr. MARKEY (for himself, Mrs. GILLIBRAND, Ms. WARREN, Mr. BLUMENTHAL, Mr. BOOKER, and Mr. SANDERS):

S. 3535. A bill to amend the Low-Income Home Energy Assistance Act of 1981 to increase the availability of heating and cooling assistance, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

By Mr. DAINES:

S. 3536. A bill to prohibit the Administrator of the Transportation Security Ad-

ministration from accepting warrants for the arrest of aliens as valid proof of identification at airport security checkpoints, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

By Mr. DAINES (for himself, Mr. CRAMER, Mr. SASSE, Mr. BOOZMAN, Mr. SCOTT of South Carolina, Mrs. HYDE-SMITH, Mr. LANKFORD, Mr. LEE, Mr. ROMNEY, Mr. HAWLEY, Mrs. FISCHER, Mr. RUBIO, and Mr. INHOFE):

S. 3537. A bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to provide a child tax credit for pregnant moms with respect to their unborn children, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Finance.

By Mr. GRAHAM (for himself, Mr. BLUMENTHAL, Mr. DURBIN, Mr. GRASSLEY, Mrs. FEINSTEIN, Mr. CORNYN, Mr. WHITEHOUSE, Mr. HAWLEY, Ms. HIRONO, Mr. KENNEDY, Mr. CASEY, Mrs. BLACKBURN, Ms. CORTEZ MASTO, Ms. COLLINS, Ms. HASSAN, Ms. ERNST, Mr. WARNER, Mrs. HYDE-SMITH, Ms. MURKOWSKI, and Mr. PORTMAN):

S. 3538. A bill to establish a National Commission on Online Child Sexual Exploitation Prevention, and for other purposes; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

#### SUBMISSION OF CONCURRENT AND SENATE RESOLUTIONS

The following concurrent resolutions and Senate resolutions were read, and referred (or acted upon), as indicated:

By Mr. DURBIN (for himself, Mr. GRASSLEY, Mrs. SHAHEEN, Mr. BOOZMAN, Mrs. FEINSTEIN, Mr. BRAUN, Ms. BALDWIN, Mr. BARRASSO, Mr. COONS, Mr. TILLIS, Mr. MURPHY, Mr. CRUZ, Mr. CARDIN, Mr. RUBIO, Ms. KLOBUCHAR, Ms. COLLINS, Mr. MERKLEY, Mr. REED, and Ms. STABENOW):

S. Res. 499. A resolution celebrating 100 years of diplomatic relations between the United States and the Baltic States; to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

#### ADDITIONAL COSPONSORS

S. 41

At the request of Mrs. CAPITO, the name of the Senator from Ohio (Mr. BROWN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 41, a bill to amend the Public Health Service Act, the Employee Retirement Income Security Act of 1974, the Internal Revenue Code of 1986, and the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act to require coverage of hearing devices and systems in certain private health insurance plans, and for other purposes.

S. 138

At the request of Mrs. FEINSTEIN, the name of the Senator from Oregon (Mr. WYDEN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 138, a bill to waive certain pay limitations for Department of Agriculture and Department of the Interior employees engaged in emergency wildland fire suppression activities, and for other purposes.

S. 401

At the request of Mr. LANKFORD, the names of the Senator from Idaho (Mr. CRAPO) and the Senator from Texas (Mr. CRUZ) were added as cosponsors of S. 401, a bill to amend the Public Health Service Act to prohibit governmental discrimination against health